

Message Text

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FOR: EA AMB GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN NEWS ROUNDUP-FRIDAY AUGUST 10.

(1) THURSDAY P.M. MELBOURNE HERALD FRONTPAGES "MASSIVE RED ATTACK THREAT U.S. BOMBS SUBURBS" REFERENCE TO PHNOM PENH. EDITORIAL HEADED "U.S. SCANDALS MAY HARM US ALL" SAID: "THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPIRO AGNEW AFFAIR, ON TOP OF WATERGATE, WILL FILL EVERY FRIEND OF THE U.S. WITH DEEPENING GLOOM."

(2) FRIDAY HEADLINES INCLUDE WHITLAM STATEMENT ON WEAKNESS OF PRESIDENCY, AGNEW ALLEGATIONS, CAIRNS DEMAND FOR CAMBODIAN BOMBING HALT AND AUSTRALIAN SENATE INVESTIGATION RE MIGRANTS AND ASIO.

(3) SYDNEY MORNING HERALD REPORTS WHITLAM BBC TV INTERVIEW WITH HEADLINES "NIXON WEAKENED, SAYS WHITLAM. P.M. BREAKS HIS SILENCE ON WATERGATE AND INDO CHINA." WHITLAM REPORTED AS SAYING "CLEARLY WATERGATE HAS WEAKENED THE PRESIDENT AND MAYBE THE PRESIDENCY...IT IS NOT JUST PRESIDENT NIXON BUT PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND PRESIDENT KENNEDY WHO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC LOSING TRUST IN THEIR
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LEADERS OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS." ASKED WHETHER U.S.

WAS WEAKENED P.M. SAID "I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WE WILL FIND AMERICA HAS BEEN WEAKENED. I THINK AMERICA IS BEING PURIFIED AND STRENGTHENED." SEVERAL PAPERS NOTE WHITLAM STATEMENT IN SAME INTERVIEW THAT AUSTRALIA AND CANADA WILL "EVENTUALLY" BECOME REPUBLICS-THOUGH HE DID NOT EXPECT "IN HIS LIFETIME."

AUSTRALIAN HEADLINES: "WHITLAM ATTACKS NIXON, JOHNSON AND KENNEDY. 'WATERGATE WILL PURIFY U.S.' "

(4) MOST PAPERS REPORT PROMINENTLY THAT TRADE MINISTER DR. JIM CAIRNS CALLED FOR AN END TO CAMBODIAN BOMBING AND SAID HE WOULD ADDRESS A PROTEST RALLY TO BE HELD IN MELBOURNE TODAY. HE SAID AUSTRALIA SHOULD NEVER HAVE RECOGNISED LON NOL AND SHOULD NOW RECOGNISE SIHANOUK.

(5) SENATE COMMITTEE INQUIRING INTO CIVIL RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS WILL CALL FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM ASIO SENIOR OFFICERS ACCORDING TO FRONTPAGE CANBERRA TIMES REPORT TODAY. UNDER SUB HEADING "SECRET GROUP CHARGE" REPORT SAYS THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD FORMED AN UNDERGROUND COMMUNIST GROUP IN GEELONG WHICH INTIMIDATED MIGRANTS AND DISTRIBUTED PROPAGANDA FROM EMBASSY IN CANBERRA.

(6) LETTER TO EDITOR OF SYDNEY MORNING HERALD SAYS IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS BACK TO NORMAL AFTER LABOR LAMBAST OF FRIENDS AND WARTIME ALLIES.. SIGNED R.W. ASKIN, PREMIER OF N.S.W.

(7) AUSTRALIAN EDIT PROPOSES SETTING UP NATIONAL PLAN ON ENERGY.(8) CANBERRA TIMES EDIT HEADED "DIFFERENCES AT OTTATA" SAID " CRITICISMS LEVELLED AT MR. WHITLAM BY MR. LEE AND MR. HEATH ON AUSTRALIA'S APPROACH TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FOREIGN POLICY ARE VALUABLE INDICATORS OF THE KIND OF IMPACT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS MAKING ABROAD. HARROP

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